32.   A method for reducing the delay between the time a data page is requested and the time the data page is displayed comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for retrieval of a data page wherein the request further comprises an indication that a response to the request can contain difference data;

transmitting a first version of the data page in response to the request;

determining whether there is a difference between a second version of the data page and the first version of the data page; and

if there is a difference between the second version of the data page and the first version of the data page, transmitting a response containing difference data computed from the difference between the first version of the data page and the second version of the data page.

33.   The method of claim 32 wherein the first version of the data page is retrieved from a cache.

34.   The method of claim 33 wherein the step of determining the difference between the second version of the data page and the first version of the data page further comprises the step of contacting a server storing the second version of the data page.

35.   The method of claim 34 wherein the difference data is retrieved from the server storing the second version of the data page if the server determines that the second version of the data page is different from the first version of the data page in the cache.

36.   The method of claim 34 wherein the second version of the data page is retrieved from the server storing the second version of the data page and used to compute the difference data if the server determines that the second version of the data page is different from the first version of the data page in the cache.

37.   The method of claim 36 wherein difference data is computed on a continuing basis as the second version of the data page is retrieved from the server.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein computation and transmission of the difference data is aborted and the second version of the data page is transmitted in response to the request if the difference data has a size that exceeds a first threshold.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the first threshold is a function of the size of the data page.

40. The method of claim 32 wherein transmission of a response containing the difference data is aborted and the second version of the data page is transmitted in response to the request if the second version of the data page has a size that exceeds a second threshold based on the size of the difference data.

41. · The method of claim 40 wherein the second threshold is also based on a cost of computing the second version of the data page from the difference data.

42. The method of claim 32 wherein transmission of the first version of the data page and of a response containing the difference data are aborted and the second version of the data page transmitted in response to the request if only a portion of the first version of the data page has been transmitted and the portion has a size that does not exceed a third threshold.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein the third threshold is based on the size of the data page.

44. The method of claim 32 wherein the second version of the data page is a current version of the data page.
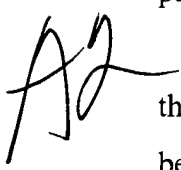
45. The method of claim 32 wherein a response to the request is transmitted indicating that, the first version of the data page has not been modified if there is no difference between the second version of the data page and the first version of the data page.

46.   A method for reducing the delay between the time a data page is requested and the time the data page is displayed comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for retrieval of a data page wherein the request further comprises identification of a first version of the data page and an indication that a response to the request can contain difference data;

determining a difference between a second version of the data page and the first version of the data page;

if there is no difference between the second version of the data page and the first version of the data page, transmitting a response to the request indicating that the first version of the data page has not been modified; and

if there is a difference between the second version of the data page and the first version of the data page, transmitting a response containing difference computed from the difference between the first version of the data page and the second version of the data page.

47.   The method of claim 46 wherein the first version of the data page is retrieved from a cache.

48.   The method of claim 47 where the second version of the data page is a current version of the data page.

49.   The method of claim 46 wherein the transmission of a response containing the difference data is aborted and the second version of the data page transmitted in response to the request if the second version of the data page has a size that is exceeds a second threshold based on the size of the difference data.

50.   The method of claim 49 wherein the second threshold is also based on a cost of computing the second version of the data page from the difference data.
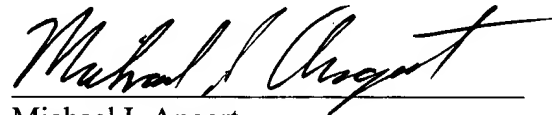
CONCLUSION

Claims 1-31 have been cancelled, claims 32-50 are now pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. The claims are in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, including all required extension of time fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 11-0600.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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